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Senator Kennedy
talks to
Hugh Fraser, page 12

Air raids on guerrilla bases precede arrival of Governor

Salisbury's jet aircraft have attacked guerrilla bases in Zambia and Mozambique, preparations for British rule were being made in expectation that the Governor-designate would arrive on Wednesday. The Patriotic Front guerrillas entering Zimbabwe Rhodesia. The raids came while final were quick to condemn the raids.

Salisbury to rush through Bill restoring British rule

From Nicholas Ashford Salisbury, Dec 9

Zimbabwe Rhodesian jet aircraft attacked guerrilla bases in Zambia and Mozambique early today while in Salisbury preparations were made for the arrival of the Governor-designate, Lord Soames, the British Governor-designate, and for the passing through of a parliamentary Bill providing for the return of the rebel territory to British rule.

According to a Combined Operations Headquarters communiqué, the air strikes into Zambia were carried out because captured guerrillas had said that Mr Joshua Nkomo's Zimbabwe People's Revolutionary Army (ZimPR) was trying to send its guerrillas into the country in order to escalate the war.

The communiqué stated that the targets consisted of ZimPR staging posts in which large numbers of guerrillas had grouped in preparation for incursions into Zimbabwe Rhodesia. It said that all targets were "terrorist bases" and contained no refugees or Zambian forces.

A second communiqué issued later in the day said that the raids into Mozambique had been against bases used by Mr Robert Mugabe's Zimbabwe African National Liberation Army (ZANLA).

The fact that Zimbabwe Rhodesia should have carried out such attacks only days before the country is to come under direct British rule is an indication of the Salisbury Government's concern at the extent of Patriotic Front infiltration. Official sources put the number of active guerrillas now operating inside the country at about 17,000.

According to a British spokesman in Salisbury, Lord Soames and his retinue of political

advisers and police advisers is expected to arrive at about 10.30 on Wednesday. However, it is not yet known who will be at the airport to greet Lord Soames. Initially British Diplomats who are in Salisbury as part of the planning team intended to restrict the Zimbabwe Rhodesian reception committee to the Chief Justice and one or two other officials. But several political leaders have shown interest in being there as well.

The decision on this and other procedural matters will be taken personally by Lord Soames who is already being called "the Queen's Dictator" here because of the wide powers he will wield during his tenure of office.

Some after his arrival at Salisbury airport, where he will be greeted by the British South African Police and playing God Save the Queen. Lord Soames will be driven to Government House, recently vacated by President Joshua Gwede.

There he will preside over a ceremony to raise the Union Jack, a symbolically important act which will be the first time the British flag has flown there since Sir Humphrey Gibbs, the last Governor, bowed out when Rhodesia became a republic in 1969.

The same evening, Lord Soames will make a television address to the nation in which he is expected to set the tone of his Administration. Zimbabwe Rhodesians of all colours have generally been impressed by the fact that a man of Lord Soames' stature is taking the reins of government and they hope he will use his wide powers with tact and firmness.

However, there is some concern that the political and military volatility of the situation may force him to exercise his authority on the contrary.

In Salisbury, Lord Soames will arrive on Wednesday

day, the Zimbabwe Rhodesian Parliament plans to finish all four readings of the Constitution of Zimbabwe Rhodesia Amendment Bill on the previous day. The Bill states that the country shall cease to be an independent state and shall become part of Her Majesty's dominions and that all powers will be vested in the British Governor.

The Bill will be tabled for first reading on Tuesday morning by Mr Chris Anderson, the Minister of Justice, and it is expected that both the Assembly and the Senate will approve it by the same evening or the following morning.

Little opposition is expected. The only voice of protest when the new constitution was debated a week ago came from Mr Mark Partridge, a signatory to the unilateral declaration of independence in 1965 but now a backbencher.

The Bill stipulates that Parliament shall be dissolved on the day that President Gwede, the existing black head of state, transfers power to Lord Soames in what is likely to be a bizarre reversal of former handing-over ceremonies in Africa.

The Bill does not define the functions of the period of office of the British Governor but says he shall have whatever legislative and executive powers are conferred on him by British Orders-in-Council arising from the 1979 Southern Rhodesia Act passed in Westminster. It says that elections should be held "as soon as is practicable" after the Governor arrives.

Under the terms of the Bill, Lord Soames and his deputy will continue to hold nominal office and draw their salaries until the election. Similarly, President Gwede will continue to enjoy his presidential salary and privileges although he is no longer head of state. He has recently moved from Government House in Salisbury to Government House in Bulawayo.

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No panic by motorists over petrol shortage

By Craig Seton

The progressive closure of Shell filling stations caused no more than a few minor difficulties for drivers yesterday. The motoring organisations believe that the weekend clearly demonstrated that the British motorist has been hardened by past experiences of petrol shortages and is refusing to panic. Most Shell stations were closed over the weekend to conserve stocks. Few are expected to open today owing to the action by drivers and anti-racketeers as 35 out of 45 of the company's depots.

The RAC and AA reported that many other filling stations were open. Apart from some local shortages in London and Essex, the few drivers who went out found petrol without difficulty.

Mr Robert Pearson, of the Motoring Agencies Association, said: "I think people have finally realised that there is no point in panicking."

There is plenty of petrol to go round. Drivers without cash and journeys are possibly staying at home. The situation may deteriorate later this week.

The AA said some drivers had obviously not ventured out because of the possibility of shortages. Many others realized that "topping up" was futile and caused more shortages and queues.

There was still some evidence of profiteering. One motorist was charging an extra 10p on four-star petrol. The spokesman said: "We do not like it that whenever there is a hint of a shortage certain garages put up their prices. It does not encourage demand and creates ill-will between motorists and filling stations." Similar views were expressed by the RAC.

Mr Walter Johnson, Labour MP for Derby South, urged motorists yesterday to boycott garages which overcharged after the Shell dispute ends.

Union asks to meet company Page 2

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Mother Teresa, who is in Oslo to receive the Nobel peace prize today, leaving St Olav's Church yesterday to go back to St Joseph's Institute, where she is staying.

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Supporters of rival ayatollahs clash in fierce gun battle

Tabriz, Dec 9—The broadcasting station in the northwest city of Tabriz, the unofficial capital of the Turkish-speaking population of Iran, was the scene of fierce fighting tonight as supporters of the country's second most powerful religious leader, Ayatollah Khomeini, clashed with followers of Ayatollah Khomeini, the Iranian revolutionary leader.

Witnesses said at least five people were killed and many others wounded in the shooting, which engulfed the entire city. Machine guns and rifle fire were heard across the city as the two sides fought running battles in the streets in the heart of the city.

Some firing was also heard from the university grounds not far from the broadcasting station and tracers were seen about a mile from the main action.

Earlier in the day supporters of Ayatollah Khomeini snatched the radio station in Tabriz, provincial capital of East Azerbaijan, in a bloodless assault after the Azerbaijanis had held it for three days, broadcasting pro-Shariat-Madari messages. They gave up without a struggle as a crowd of about 10,000 surged up the steep road leading to the hill-top station.

When several thousand Shariat-Madari supporters returned a few hours later, shouting "Allah o Akbar" (God is great), Ayatollah Khomeini's followers opened up with bursts of sub-machine gun and rifle fire.

They broadcast calls for help during the siege, urging people loyal to the revolution to join the struggle and for Islamic religious leaders to step in to stop the fighting. Soldiers arrived to help them, reliable sources said.

In an attempt to rally other Turkish-speaking Iranians to the Government cause, the state radio system in Tehran played Turkish songs supporting Ayatollah Khomeini.

Khomeini sides urged Ayatollah Shariat-Madari to disband the main Turkish-speaking party, the Muslim People's Republican Party (MPRP), which had started the latest unrest. There was no immediate response from Ayatollah Shariat-Madari. Ayatollah Khomeini went on television to

warn the people against "bloodshed and fratricide" and told minorities not to "create unrest and disturbances".

The troubles, which arose after calls for changes in an Islamic constitution and greater autonomy for minority groups in Iran, appear to have developed by tonight into a major domestic crisis for Ayatollah Khomeini.

The MPRP regards Ayatollah Shariat-Madari as their spiritual leader, as do most of the 8,000,000 Turkish-speaking Azerbaijanis.

After several religious leaders known for their pro-Khomeini sympathies sent telegrams from the Holy City of Qom urging Ayatollah Shariat-Madari to disband the MPRP, the Government spokesman in a telephone interview said in a telephone interview that his father had no intention of doing so. "He supports and endorses the MPRP," he added.

Acting for Ayatollah Khomeini, the ruling Revolutionary Council ordered a mission to Tabriz tomorrow to try to restore order in the city, which was quieter by midnight, and stop the fighting from spreading. —Deuter, UPI, Agence France Presse.

New tactics: As the seizure of the American Embassy in Tehran enters its sixth week, the United States administration is resorting to new tactics to secure the release of the hostages. (Our Washington Correspondent writes.)

The moves include a possible international trade embargo against Iran, as well as diplomatic approaches to the Iranian authorities by a number of special envoys representing European and Middle East governments sympathetic to Washington.

Mr Sadeq Ghotbzadeh the Iranian Foreign Minister announced today that he hoped to set up what he called an international grand jury within the next 10 days to investigate "American intervention and wrongdoings" in Iran over the past 25 years. Its purpose would be to bring home to the American public how greatly Iranians had suffered during the reign of the deposed Shah.

He indicated that the hostages accused of spying would not be put on trial until the grand jury had completed its work and that those who proved to be innocent would then be released.

Continued on page 4, col 5

Outrageous, Patriotic Front says

The air strikes by Zimbabwe Rhodesia were immediately condemned by Patriotic Front delegates in London as "outrageous".

Mr Willie Mazarire, Mr Joshua Nkomo's chief spokesman, said: "The Rhodesians are not serious about a settlement. These raids show their mood. They are preparing for war."

Dr Edson Zvobgo, chief spokesman for Mr Robert Mugabe's wing of the Patriotic Front, said: "This confirms our belief that the Rhodesians will be ready to massacre our people if we accept this plan for so-called Assembly places."

"They obviously believe they can wipe out our forces if we were foolish enough to accept this plan."

He said that if the Patriotic Front's forces moved into the assembly points proposed by the British, the Zimbabwe Rhodesians "on the other hand, would send us their bombers."

The carnage would be incredible. A Foreign Office spokesman declined to make any specific comment on the raids but said the Lancaster House talks in London were discussing a ceasefire to put a stop to such incidents.

The spokesman would not say whether the Foreign Office considered that the new raids breached Britain's last appeal to Salisbury to exercise restraint. This appeal was made after Rhodesian raids into Zambia provoked anti-British demonstrations.

Forces' strength: The Rhodesian spokesman said his force already told British confidentially the size of their forces (Our Diplomatic Correspondent writes). The Patriotic Front representatives were still refusing to do so and they know Rhodesia is going to happen afterwards, a spokesman said.

When Sir Edward died in 1971 his estate passed to his wife, who died four years later. In her will she left some red dispatch boxes, which belonged to her husband, to Mr David Swaitland, a Singer collecting and guardian of her will.

Mr Swaitland was not available yesterday to comment on the auction speech of George VI, pending the problem being resolved as regards title. Sotheby and Company, as auctioneers, are not in a position to evaluate the various claims laid to this property.

The speech addressed to the Privy Council as accession council, is partly printed but below the text King George has

added a paragraph announcing that his brother would in future be known as the Duke of Windsor. In one corner there is a note saying "the King's own hand".

The speech and a number of other royal papers were originally in the hands of Sir Edward Leathbridge, who retired as clerk to the Privy Council in 1951. At the time of the abdication crisis he was deputy clerk.

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Tory-led fight against Bill

The three leading local government associations, all Tory-controlled, are holding talks to form a united front to fight the main financial provisions of the Local Government Planning and Land Bill. They see its proposed penalties for overspending and controls of capital as a serious attack on local democracy and a strait-jacket on local government.

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Steel union rejects pay talks 'charade'

Mr William Sims, general secretary of the British Steel Corporation, is planning a strike throughout the British Steel Corporation in the new year, said yesterday that his union was "not prepared to go through the charade of another meeting with the corporation unless they are prepared to increase the 2 per cent offer."

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HOME NEWS

Tory-controlled groups hope to defeat finance curbs they see as threat to local democracy

By Christopher Warman,
Local Government Correspondent

Local authorities are set to oppose the main financial provisions in the Local Government Finance Bill, published last week, intending to defeat what they see as a serious attack on local democracy.

The three leading local authority associations, all Conservative-controlled, have begun discussions to achieve a united front. Mr John Grueison, chairman of the policy committee of the Association of County Councils, said the Bill put a "seriatim" on local government and pledged a "fight to the bitter end".

A fellow Conservative, Sir Kenneth Thompson, chairman of Merseyside County Council, said: "I should be surprised if its passage through either House was free from difficulty."

The Bill contains proposals for a new block grant by which the Government will provide support for local services. That would enable the Government to set spending levels for individual councils and to penalise any authority that overspends substantially by reducing its grant.

That will not become effective until 1981-82, but the Government plans transitional arrangements to achieve a similar effect in 1980-81.

The other main contentious proposal is to control capital spending. Now councils must get government permission for large projects, but they can raise money for them either from the rates or from borrowing.

The new controls will enable the Government to fix a strict ceiling within which councils may spend without reference to the Government.

The Bill has been delayed by the Government's decision after Labour Party opposition

to switch its introduction from the House of Lords to the Commons.

Some local authority leaders are privately disappointed, because they felt the Lords could have given a rough ride to Lord Bellwin, of Leeds, Under-Secretary of State at the Department of the Environment, in his first attempt to pilot through an important piece of legislation.

It is return to the Commons has brought a different possible benefit. The delay could mean that when the Bill reaches the committee stage, many county councils will have set their rate precepts and Conservative council leaders may be able to convince the Government that there will be no explosion in rates.

If so they may persuade the Government to drop plans for the transitional arrangements, which Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, has admitted will meet out "rough justice".

Certainly he and Mr Tom King, Minister for Local Government, have agreed to meet with the party's national executive committee to ensure that the local Labour parties understood that the Bill had been ruled out at the last party conference.

The councillors agreed to fight the Bill, but also to make account of the consequences of refusing to make them.

The blunt view of Mr Ted Knight, leader of Lambeth Council, was that his council is pledged to maintain services and that the cost of refusing to make cuts must be on the rates. That view received little support.

Councils such as Hackney raised comparative rates for each penny rate and to put all the ratepayers would mean rate rises of 60 to 70 per cent for the same people who would be affected by cuts.

Mr A. G. Taylor, chairman of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, doubted whether the proposals would be effective. The block grant was likely to become as complex as the present grant system and be unjust and inefficient.

"We doubt Whitehall's ability to produce fair and effective measures," he said.

Mr Charles Haughey, the Irish Republic's new Prime Minister, will be formally installed tomorrow, in a ceremony to explain what he means by the promised "change of emphasis" in Northern Ireland policy.

Uncertainty about the republic's approach to Ulster under its new leader will overshadow the delicate negotiations which are to be resumed in Belfast today to try to launch a constitutional conference on handing back powers from Westminster to an elected assembly in the province.

Mr Humphrey Atkins, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, will again be attempting to persuade Roman Catholic political leaders to join the conference.

For the second time in less than a week he is to meet Mr John Hume, leader of the Social Democratic and Labour Party, at Stormont Castle this afternoon, in the knowledge that the SDLP stays out of the conference is doomed.

The SDLP's rank and file is determined to get an assurance on the possibility of links with Dublin being included in any devolution exercise. Mr Hume reported on the first round of

talks with Mr Atkins to his party executive and influential constituency representatives on Saturday, and they apparently were not impressed by what the minister had offered.

Today's resumed meeting is the last chance for government hopes of opening the conference with a "token" meeting before Christmas, but a substantive conference in the new year, he said, would be a "real test" of the approach to Northern Ireland.

Mr Hume has been heightened by his virtual silence on the subject for the past nine years. But seasoned political observers believe that while he may pursue the Ulster issue more vigorously than his predecessor, he is unlikely to raise the temperature with rousing speeches on Irish unity.

Powell criticism: As proof against the guilt of false friends and the allegations of open enemies, the Official Ulster Unionists would continue to stand rock-firm for "the union, the whole union and nothing but what is consistent with the union."

Mr Enoch Powell, MP for South Down, told meeting at Omagh on Saturday

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Drivers ask Shell for meeting to end dispute

By David Felton,
Labour Reporter

Union officials representing 1,500 Shell tanker drivers have been either suspended or on strike for nearly two weeks have asked the management for another meeting to try to solve the apparently intractable dispute.

Two late night sessions last week and the intervention of the Government's Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service all failed.

But Mr Jack Ashwell, Transport and General Workers' Union national secretary for commercial transport, said yesterday that he still hoped to reach a settlement with the management over the use of outside contract labour.

Petrol and oil supplies are further threatened by the overtime ban by Esso tanker drivers over a pay claim. Esso and Shell together supply more than 40 per cent of the United Kingdom market.

Mr Ashwell said he was convinced settlements could be reached with the oil companies on the pay issue in the next two weeks.

During negotiations over the weekend, he said Texaco increased their offer from 20 to 23 per cent, and talks with BP management are due to be held on Tuesday.

Shell drivers have rejected an offer of more than 20 per cent and have asked the TGWU for official backing for industrial action.

However, the dispute at Shell over the increased use of contract labour, which the union claims threatens its members' jobs, is more complex. Shop stewards decided last week to ask drivers to go on strike.

Meetings are to be held at the depot this morning. Shell has insisted that its rationalisation plan, which involves the closure of five depots and the reorganisation of three more, is a commercial decision and it cannot countenance the union's non-cooperation with it.

Under the plan there will be increased use of contract labour to distribute fuel from the depots which have been, or are about to be, reorganised.

The union says there should be a procedure for both sides to go to arbitration if no agreement can be reached. Shell has so far refused to accept that suggestion.

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David Cobb, a former naval commander, painting a naval history of the Second World War for the Royal Naval Museum Portsmouth.

Farmer's wife leads fight against Lake District water extraction

From John Chartres,
Manchester

Nearly 300 campaigners against a proposal to extract an extra seven million gallons of water a day from Wind Water, in the Lake District, are expected to converge on Parliament tomorrow.

The campaign against the proposal, which has been put forward by British Nuclear Fuels to meet the growing needs of the Windscale nuclear reprocessing plant, has gained considerable momentum in the past three months.

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to increase abstraction from Embsay Water, which is about 10 miles north of Wind Water.

The two proposals are linked, as the water authority proposes to supply west Cumbria industry, including the Windscale plant, from Embsay Water, and the idea of that project would inevitably be affected by the success of the other.

The campaign against the proposal, which has been put forward by British Nuclear Fuels to meet the growing needs of the Windscale nuclear reprocessing plant, has gained considerable momentum in the past three months.

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The lake is believed to be at least 200ft deep (although no one has officially plumbed it), and has a gradient across its southern bank which contributes to its dramatic appearance.

Water from the lake is already being used at Windscale at the rate of four million gallons a day.

The need for more water arises from an expansion of British Nuclear Fuels' purely commercial interests, and not for the provision of an additional source of energy for the national grid.

The opponents of the Wind Water scheme also fear that the proposals could be the end of a much longer wedge. "Once they have turned it into an artificial reservoir it would be hard or impossible to prevent them from putting in higher and higher dams," Mrs Naylor said.

"They could very easily build a dam of up to 300ft which would not only alter the contours and 'kill' the 'spring' but would also be a major threat to the lake."

Both Wind Water and Embsay Water are cherished by the more discriminating Lake District visitors, who prefer to leave their cars and walk for long distances, and the atmosphere of a sheepy, arched, contrast sharply with that of a busy, noisy, modern town, the middle of Wigglesworth.

Many devotees to the Lake District claim that Embsay Water and Wind Water are probably the last of the lakes still unpolluted, either by artificial sources or by extensive water extraction.

Mr Robinson, guest speaker at the conference, claimed that Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Industry, had authorized his dismissal from Longbridge. The real reason for his dismissal was the Government's fear of a concerted trade union attack on the new Employment Bill, he suggested.

The conference passed motions opposing the Government's policy on overseas students and attacking the changes to the abortion law proposed in Mr John Grieve's Abortion Amendment Bill. The students' claim for a 36 per cent increase in maintenance grants was rejected.

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Commercial Properties and Services to the Business World

Landscaped sites for office blocks

Office buildings in landscaped parks or campuses are more commonly found in America than in this country, but one or two such developments have been carried out here and now work has started on another.

Capital and Counties Property is developing its four-acre Riverside office site in Lewisham town centre, South London.

The £4.5m first stage now being built will have a building on six floors to provide 67,000 sq ft of fully conditioned and double glazed offices. Completion is due in the autumn of 1981.

A further 65,000 sq ft is planned once a tenant has been found for the initial stage, although the developers might consider an earlier start if there is a potential tenant for the entire 132,000 sq ft.

The whole setting is being landscaped with existing trees being retained and

many new semi-mature trees and shrubs being planted as well.

The site is beside the River Ravensbourne and an old nineteenth-century watermill will be restored and converted into a restaurant. An operating reproduction of the original mill wheel will be a feature, and the mill pond will be reinstated. The whole scheme will be linked by a pedestrian bridge to Lewisham's modern shopping centre.

Architects for the development are Sir Frederick Gibberd and Partners. The letting agents are Debenham, Tewson and Chiswick, and the main contractor for the first phase is Y. J. Lovell.

The freehold of the site is owned by the London Borough of Lewisham which has granted a ground lease of 125 years to Capital and Counties.

In Bournemouth, work has begun on a £12.5m, six-storey office block in Christchurch Road, one of the main office areas of the town. The scheme is being carried out

by Arragon Properties, the property development and management arm of Sun Life Assurance Society, which acquired the site last July. Completion of the block is due at the end of next year, when it will provide some 19,000 sq ft of offices, together with on-site car parking. Design is by John Laing Design Associates and the main contractor is Ernest Ireland Construction.

Lafond Bros and Farham, of Bristol, introduced the site to Sun Life and have been retained as letting agents. When completed the building will be kept in Sun Life's expanding property portfolio.

In the industrial sector, Cadbury Schweppes Pension Fund has paid £570,000 for a freehold site of two acres at Milford Road, Reading, part of an industrial estate. The fund will also finance a warehouse or industrial development on the site.

The land was acquired from Rockfort Land, of Reading, who are to carry out the scheme which will consist of four units of just under 6,000 sq ft each, and one large unit of about 20,000 sq ft, to be divisible and with a high office contents. Construction is to begin in a few weeks, with completion by the middle of next year.

Strutt and Parker and

Edward Erdman and Co, the letting agents, are expecting rents of £3 a sq ft. Cadbury Schweppes in the purchase and funding, and Richard Ellis represented Rockfort Land.

Chantrey Keys Industrial Estates and Embassy Developments—two property companies based in Birmingham—have joined forces to develop about six acres of land off the Nechells Parkway, at Nechells Park Road, Birmingham.

The location is less than a mile from Spaghetti Junction, the Aston Expressway and the centre of the city. To be known as City Link, the development will have about 100,000 sq ft of factory space.

Construction has just started and the first units should be ready by the middle of next year. Letting is through Bernard Thorpe and Partners, who also acted for the developers in the acquisition of the site.

Work has also begun on an industrial or warehouse scheme in Hayes Road, Southall, Middlesex, on a site of about three acres beside the Western International Market.

The scheme, which is to be known as the Market Trading Estate, is being carried out by Rush and Tompkins in association with the London Borough of Hounslow.

It has some 63,000 sq ft of space in 12 individual units in three terraces, the units, ranging in size from 2,810 sq ft to 8,100 sq ft, are to be completed next December. Letting will be through King and Co and Leighton Goldhill.

The Abbey Property Fund has recently begun work on an industrial project in Lowfields Road, Leeds. To be known as the Latchmore Industrial Park, it is on a site of 13.25 acres and has a frontage of 405 yards to the M62, the main link between the centre of the city and the M62.

The first phase will comprise 87,265 sq ft in units from 6,330 sq ft to 25,530 sq ft, which are expected to be ready for occupation next June. One unit of some 26,000 sq ft has been pre-let to Tubalanes (UK) at a rent of about £46,000 a year.

St Quintin, of Leeds, who are also the retained agents



Artist's impression of the office campus development in Lewisham.

for the remainder of the development, acted for Abbey, Strutt and Parker advised Tubalanes.

Metal Box, has sold its two laboratory buildings at 309 Elvedon Road and Twyford Abbey Road, Park Royal, London, for £1.4m. The two properties have a total site

area of 3.7 acres and have been acquired by the Fleming Property Unit Trust, who, with Sheridan Estates, propose to redevelop and renovate the buildings for industrial and warehouse use.

The building in Elvedon Road has about 35,000 sq ft of space, and that in Twyford

Abbey Road some 18,860 sq ft. Dron and Wright acted for Metal Box and Lewis and Tucker for the trust and Sheridan Estates. Fleming was also advised by Richard Ellis, who is dealing with inquiries.

Gerald Ely

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FIRST ENCOUNTER

The Government will this week at the South-West, Hampshire by-election face its first electoral test since the general election. It will do so in a better shape than would have been the case even a week or so ago—though it would be rash to assume that this improvement in the impression created by the Government will be reflected at the polls. The Rhodesia settlement is a diplomatic achievement of the first order, promising an agreement that had eluded British statesmen of both main parties for so long. The Dublin summit was, by contrast, a diplomatic fiasco, but one where the Prime Minister was seen to be representing a popular British interest with considerable vigour, so it should not have diminished her public standing.

On both these issues there may be greater difficulties ahead than are now generally foreseen. Much has to be done before the agreements of the negotiating table can be translated into a degree of orderly government in Rhodesia that would permit Britain finally to divest itself of responsibility without international opprobrium. On the EEC Mrs Thatcher may find that it is much harder to maintain her popular stance if substantial concessions are not made over Britain's budget contribution to her European partners in the diplomatic negotiations that are now getting under way. In that case she may have to choose between accepting a more modest improvement than the general public have come to expect of applying sanctions of a severity that would disturb a number of her colleagues. But for the moment both Rhodesia and, to a lesser extent, Dublin must both be marked down as a plus for the public reputation of the Government.

Then there has been the miners' vote to accept their pay

offer. At one level there is no cause for rejoicing over a settlement as high as 20 per cent. That will do nothing to bring down the rate of increases in the current payround, though it is at least an indication to other unions that not even the miners regard the sky as the limit. But there was never much chance that the Government's strategy for controlling incomes would be successful in the first round. This strategy depends upon restricting the amount of money available so that the unions know that if they insist upon inflationary wage settlements they will simply be pricing some of their members out of jobs.

It was always a forlorn hope that the unions could be persuaded to accept this logic as soon as Mrs Thatcher had walked into Downing Street. Such a conversion could be expected to come about only as the unions began to recognize the grim consequences of one largely unrestrained pay round. The miners' settlement does not prove that this is happening. But the fact that the miners voted for acceptance against the recommendation of their executive, combined with the reconstruction plan at British Leyland, does suggest that even in publicly owned industries union members are coming to be aware of the discipline of market forces.

The developments in the steel industry do not, it is true, point in the same direction. But it is too early to assume either that the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation will go ahead with their threatened strike, or that if they do it will be successful. A rise of a few percentage points above the present two per cent offer would be damaging for the industry, which is in such a parlous condition, but that would

still be well below the general level of settlements. What matters is whether forces are now at work that will lead to a decline in inflation in, say, a year's time.

That is also the best way to judge the severe increase in interest and mortgage rates. In themselves they are just about the surest way for any government to incur unpopularity. If they were to be a lasting feature of life under Mrs Thatcher this administration would be doomed. But the purpose of such disastrous measures is to squeeze inflation out of the economy. It is no use supposing that this could be done painlessly, and if it can be achieved in large measure within a reasonable period of time then the economic relief will be such as to give an excellent opportunity for a lasting improvement in Britain's performance.

Such hopes depend considerably upon how effectively public expenditure can be cut. At the moment the Government has managed to attract a good deal of public odium for economies that will not reduce the total level of public spending in the next financial year below its present rate. The modest savings in Civil Service manpower announced at the end of last week have strengthened dissatisfaction over the Government's performance in this field. So there is now the prospect not only of failing to continue the process of cutting income tax, which was begun so spectacularly in the Government's first Budget, but even possibly of taxes having to go up. The Government's ability to build on the good impression that has now been created in a number of fields will be influenced very largely by whether it is able to get back on course in this most critical of areas.

PEKING'S BLANK WALL

The closure of Peking's democracy wall will disappoint those who saw in the posters it bore the first shoots of freedom in China; a clear-headed demand for democracy as the west understands it, not the communist fiction that disguises it as democratic centralism. Following the fifteen-year sentence to Mr Wei Jingsheng in October, the tight rules that now govern this expression of public opinion will silence all but those ready to risk a charge of counter-revolution and almost inevitable prison sentences.

For some reasons the setback may only be temporary. When Mr Wei was arrested last March it was soon apparent that Mr Deng Xiaoping's triumph three months earlier had drawn a fierce counter-attack from those still able to damage him. His measures of political relaxation, of economic enterprise freed from political dogma, together with the agreement that at last brought an American embassy to Peking had all had their opponents. Yet when the west was counting on the central committee Mr Deng won the day. Unfortunately the danger of disorder quickly became obvious. Rioting in Shanghai, protest signs in the heart of Peking, unrest

among the new intake in many universities all imposed caution. If his opponents were to be fended off he must cede where he was weakest. The economy mattered more than cries for political liberty.

Paradoxically, repression in one quarter is matched by a demand for democracy in another. The party stalwarts, speaking to publicists after two decades of Maoist dictatorship, behaviour was all agreed—no least Mr Deng himself—that never again must the party be run in Mao's way: adding his own followers at will to the politburo, packing central committee plenums, postponing due congresses until he could engineer the support he needed. Only democratic and constitutional procedures will restore good faith and give merit its due. At the centre of political relaxation, of economic enterprise freed from political dogma, together with the agreement that at last brought an American embassy to Peking had all had their opponents. Yet when the west was counting on the central committee Mr Deng won the day. Unfortunately the danger of disorder quickly became obvious. Rioting in Shanghai, protest signs in the heart of Peking, unrest

damaging political struggle and social upheaval. In that case a degree of flexibility and independence will have to be accorded to the technical and managerial class. A bureaucracy bound by dogma cannot possibly promote the efficiency and productivity that China hopes to attain, certainly not by the end of this century. Since open opposition is now an officially approved outlook in China where economic advance is in question, it can hardly flourish without greater political freedom. In the end there must be respect for public opinion of the kind that has now been banished from the wall in Peking.

Yet the process may be slow. China is a country that has never encouraged, but done much to repress, the cultivation of individual opinions; it has regarded opposition to constituted authority as immoral; it looks to harmony within the group as the first duty in shaping social order. It is not thirty years of communism but rather more than a thousand years of Confucianism that inhibit the change to a society where democratic arguments, quite another to discard instincts, upbringing and a very long tradition of political behaviour.

David Wood

Too young to test the EEC's real politik

Ron Hayward, general secretary of the Labour Party, a lifelong politician of the arts and crafts politics, delivered a warning to the European Parliament on the day it was elected. He said that the Labour Party would not elect a committee, a commission or an assembly of any kind, but without its using the powers it been given or its taking powers; he made clear that he feared the European Parliament would be too young to test the EEC's real politik.

Secondly, the Labour Party is all mind, and the Liberal group all in line today. They have in hands, they say, the ultimate that allows them to reject mission budget as redrafted by the Council; and election has at last given them authority to use it. Disparate and wasteful spending common agricultural policy is curbed, and more money diverted to energy, research, and transport, social policy, and so on.

Seems fine enough. Super-severs and students of star's development through tries may be tempted to here we see a Parliament than six months old the old, old path of no without redress of grievance without representation. Let the European throw out the Council of budget and build the

barricades, and the electors will cheat them every yard of the way. Yet the facts do not fit neatly into such a gloomy scheme. First, the Council of Ministers, who have refused to accept the European Parliament's redraft of the Commission's budget draft, are no less democratically elected; and as Ministers they carry responsibility for the domestic policies of the countries of the Nine. That is why the United Kingdom voted with the majority in the Council. Among other things, the switch of Community spending from agriculture to other policies would have meant increased public spending by the United Kingdom, because in general you do not get Community financial help without strings.

Immediately then, the question arises, who knows best about the needs of a country of the Nine—the domestic parliament, or the European Parliament? No wonder Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, when he met the United Kingdom's Conservative Euro-MPs last week, murmured that rejection of the budget would be a rather dramatic step for such a young parliament to take; and no wonder Conservative old hands in Strasbourg are dropping hints that the European Democratic group must not appear to be taking the lead this week. Secondly, the majority of the politically less experienced or more militant European MPs from the United Kingdom, Socialist as well as Conservative, fondly believe that by throwing out the Council budget for 1980 they will be supporting what is now virtually bipartisan policy at Westminster. Mrs Thatcher's demand for the refund of about £1,000m to bring receipts into line with outgoings.

Not so. Mrs Thatcher has agreed to a respite in her demand until February or March, when the next summit meeting will be called by the Italian Prime Minister, and her Government does not want the diplomatic preparation to be bedevilled by inexperienced free-lance politicians in Strasbourg, who lower their heads and rush straight at the Common Agricultural Policy. The United Kingdom wants public pressure to be maintained, yes. It does not want an ill-considered policy to be abandoned, and spending on CAP.

Thirdly, there is a question for all those Westminster MPs, on both

sides of the House, who do not want to see the European Parliament grow in power as well as influence. It is not only the Labour Party, the Council of Ministers, who have refused to accept the European Parliament's redraft of the Commission's budget draft, are no less democratically elected; and as Ministers they carry responsibility for the domestic policies of the countries of the Nine. That is why the United Kingdom voted with the majority in the Council. Among other things, the switch of Community spending from agriculture to other policies would have meant increased public spending by the United Kingdom, because in general you do not get Community financial help without strings.

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Thirdly, there is a question for all those Westminster MPs, on both

Arms control for security

From Mrs Elizabeth Young

Sir, Gregory Trevor's article, "Arms control: the new missile test facing Nato" (December 7) suggests that it is against a repeat of the neutron bomb debate that Nato must prepare itself. This is a view at once too narrow and too short. Yes, Nato's collapse in the face of the Soviet and neutron bomb propaganda was at once ridiculous and dangerous. But to suppose that the Soviet Union is now merely attempting a repeat of the earlier farce would be tragic, as well as dangerous.

The Soviet Union can quite plausibly, and apparently does, interpret the Pershing II/Cruise missile proposals as an attempt by the United States to bypass the Salt II limits on intercontinental strategic weapons; after all they themselves, in a similar blight move, gave some of their own medium-range missiles a strategic capability when they put them within range of major American targets in 1962, which led to the Cuban crisis.

They did this because they interpreted Mr McNamara's "second strike counterforce" doctrine and President Kennedy's arms build-up as intimating American "disarming first strike capability" (We all pay our military to be pessimistic).

Medium-range missiles into Cuba was the immediate response, the apparently menacing Soviet military build-up the long-term response, a threat they judged intolerable. That build-up is now intolerable to us.

But if our response to their intolerable blitzkrieg capability is to take only the form of a counter-bid in missile technology, the result will be arms race for ever more. Our security now lies more clearly than ever in effective arms control. In 1977 President Carter made a proposal for deep cuts in weapons "even to 50 per cent" which he shelved at the first whiff of opposition. Is not now the time for him to repeat it?

Yours etc,
ELIZABETH YOUNG,
100 Bayswater Road, W2,
December 8.

Legal handicap

From Mr W. P. Oliver and Mr J. C. Smith, QC, FBA

Sir, We wish to draw attention to the difficulties being encountered by graduates seeking to enter either branch of the legal profession. All candidates are now required to attend courses of vocational training which are substantially longer and more expensive than courses for the former two examinations which have been replaced.

Local authorities have a discretion whether to award a grant to a graduate wishing to attend a course so as to qualify as a solicitor or a barrister. The practice of local authorities varies, but a few have decided to make no awards for these courses save in wholly exceptional circumstances. Because of the variation of practice among local authorities the result is unfair to the students and it is felt by them to be unfair. One may receive an award and another not, depending entirely on the part of the country in which his home happens to be.

A student who is refused a grant which grants for vocational training are unable to support him or who, reasonably enough, for he is likely to be aged 22 or more—is unwilling to depend on his parents, is deterred from entering the legal profession. This is a very disappointing and distressing for the student who, in many cases, will have taken a degree in law with a view to entering the profession, but it is against the public interest that entry should be limited to those with substantial means.

The Ormrod Committee on Legal Education which reported in 1971 thought it extremely important for the future of the profession that grants be available because it vitally affects the character of the entry. The recent report of the Royal Commission on Legal Services expresses agreement and recommends that grants for vocational training should be mandatory. We understand that the Council of Local Education Authorities is of the same opinion.

A new Education Bill is now before Parliament which is to be taken to remedy this injustice and ensure a strong and able legal profession for the future by implementing the recommendations of the royal commission. Yours faithfully,
W. P. OLIVER,
Chairman of the Committee of Heads of Polytechnic Law Schools,
J. C. SMITH,
Chairman of the Committee of Heads of University Law Schools,
University of Nottingham,
Nottingham.

Too much hot air

From Mr Gerald Williams

Sir, In some offices in mid-winter one can see staff at their desks in shirtsleeves.

Yours faithfully,
GERALD WILLIAMS,
Crockham House,
Westerham,
Kent.

Maintaining services

From Vice-Admiral Sir Ian Hogg

Sir, Your important series "Whitehall brief: Can the Government deal with strikes?" points to the urgent need for a corps of trained civilian volunteers. This is a commendable aim, but it is a pity that no political parties, reached some years ago when there were signs of faltering government will. We are expecting too much from the Armed Forces.

We believe there is a widespread desire throughout the nation to serve in such a corps. I am not thinking while all the quinquennial political power still resides with the governments of the Nine. As publicists, good. As practical politicians, nearly useless.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Error of judgment not negligence

From the President of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists

Sir, The successful appeal in Whitehouse v Jordan (Law Report, December 6) will bring relief to all practising obstetricians in this country amongst whom there has been widespread anxiety about the implications of the original judgment.

The distinction between negligence and error of judgment in the exercise of due skill, so clearly made by Lord Denning, is fundamental not only in this case but in the whole field of medical practice. Indeed it applies to the legal profession itself, as the Master of the Rolls observed, the success of an appeal does not discredit the judge in the lower court.

The outcome of the case in dispute could have happened—indeed for many of us with long experience will have happened—for any obstetrician in the process of discovering in a particular case, or from the cumulative experience of many cases, the better way to manage difficult obstetric problems. The road towards safer childbirth has many mistakes of reason and amended professional judgements.

If it were now widely accepted that error of judgment are distinct from negligence, that would encourage the growth of critical professional audit of medical work on an educational rather than a punitive basis. It would also avert the kind of defensive medicine which has started to grow in this country, in which all are losers, and progress is stifled.

Medical care is always impoverished when trust fails and people become polarised, and yet that is often inevitable in circumstances of loss, grief or handicap. It is sad that a doctor is not liable for compensation is not to say that he does not care, and all must endorse the view that society at large should bear the burden of unacceptable personal suffering.

The strong case for no-fault compensation is surely reinforced by the economics of a case whose original

costs of prosecution and defence totalled £50,000, chiefly borne by public funds.

Yours faithfully,
E. A. J. ALMENT,
President,
Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists,
27 Sussex Place,
Regent's Park, NW1.

From Dr David Barnes
Sir, The professional negligence case should now go to the House of Lords.

It seems that errors of judgment, that is mistakes in a claimed sphere of competence are not now negligence. I had always thought that negligence was precisely judgment which had erred. Now I do not know what negligence is. It seems it will revolve around the degree of incompetence—a very subjective matter.

As a patient as well as a doctor I would prefer all persons who set up to assist me to be fully responsible for their actions and any damage which ensues as a result of that action.
DAVID BARNES,
8 Park Lane,
Bromsgrove,
Herefordshire.

From Mr G. H. Turner

Sir, While applauding the views of the Court of Appeal that doctors should not do their work under the threat of litigation, it must be a matter of some concern that patients who may be the victims of medical negligence are not deterred from having their cases fairly investigated.

Acceptance by the medical profession of the recommendations of the Davies Committee and the House of Commons select committee on independent panels to investigate complaints would do much to reverse the trend towards litigation.

Yours faithfully,
G. H. TURNER,
119 Greenhill Road,
Allerton, Liverpool.

Nursery education

From the Leader of Oxfordshire County Council

Sir, The letter from Lady Alexandra Trevor-Roper and others (December 3) betrays a muddled understanding of what is happening in Oxfordshire with regard to spending cuts in general and nursery education in particular.

We should accept that we should encourage the participation of parents; and they advocate payment towards the cost, in accordance with means. All of those things are now under active investigation as a result of the county council's decision to phase out the council's inheritance of nursery education from 1981-82 onwards. So why should the council's decision be challenged?

At present nursery education in Oxfordshire is confined to a small percentage of the under-fives who happen to live in those areas where there are nursery schools or classes. We hope that we can meet the educational and social needs of the under-fives with a new approach which will give a good start in life to many more children at much less cost.

All this is not revealed in your correspondent's letter. Still less do they add that Oxfordshire is planning cuts which fall some way short

of the Secretary of State's target both for 1979-80 and 1980-81, despite a worsening economic situation.

Yours faithfully,
H. A. FARRANT,
Leader,
Oxfordshire County Council,
County Hall, Oxford.

From Mr T. S. Lodge

Sir, Informed persons concerned with juvenile delinquency and adult crime will, it is to be hoped, support the argument by Lady Alexandra Trevor-Roper and others for the continuance of nursery education and, indeed, press for its extension to every child.

By the age of five a child with inadequate parents may already have acquired delinquent tendencies. There is little hope of influencing parents to bring up their children differently, and delinquent tendencies, once contracted, are in the vast majority of cases impossible to reverse.

The incalculable in nursery schools of decent standards of behaviour and consideration for others is probably the only way open to our society of preventing a continual increase in crime.

Yours faithfully,
T. S. LODGE,
Chaddeley,
Slings Oak Road,
Woldingham, Surrey.

Assisted places scheme

From Sir Desmond Lee

Sir, It is a pity that the assisted places scheme has had so poor a reception. I am not quite sure what Diana Geddes' reference (November 30) to the "top independent schools" signifies, but at this year's annual general meeting of the Headmasters' Conference, the scheme was approved in principle by 136 votes to 15, with 19 abstentions—a degree of unanimity unprecedented in my 30 years' experience of the conference.

It is, of course, true that the scheme applies only to day pupils and therefore the boarding schools will not be directly affected by it and must be to some extent unaffected. But the vote is significant. The scheme was originally devised to replace direct grant, whose withdrawal by the last Government was one of our bitterest regrets. The scheme was intended to provide a service to pupils and an opportunity to parents of the greatest value, and its withdrawal seemed to be prompted by prejudice and politics rather than by reason. Bernard Levin's "Entry behind the mask of justice" is perhaps apt.

But what is not always observed is that behind this particular controversy there lies the whole question of independence in education. There are some who wish independent schools to be forbidden by law. I hope we shall not take that particular step towards the totalitarian state. But if independent schools are to exist they ought not to be kept in an educational apartheid; there ought to be some link between them and the public system.

What that link should be is perhaps not easy to see—some of us have been looking for it for

many years. Any solution will involve money. Whether or not the money which the proposed scheme requires should be found at this particular time is for Government to decide—but there is something to be said for not foregoing pre-election promises.

Yours faithfully,
DESMOND LEE,
8 Barton Close,
Cambridge.

From Dr M. A. Hooker

Sir, In her article on Friday (November 30) Diana Geddes points out that many of the Government's supporters have reservations about the assisted places scheme.

As a public school governor I regard as specially serious the proposal that these schools should be forbidden to incorporate in their fees any element for capital development. Surely each generation of parents, enjoying the buildings, equipment and grounds inherited from previous generations, should be expected in its turn to finance further improvement.

Having in my past career been professionally involved in several hundred school fund-raising campaigns, I am not likely to underestimate the value of the voluntary element, but I do not believe that all additions and improvements to plants should be paid for by those parents and others who choose to be generous.

It would be particularly difficult for most voluntary aided grammar schools joining the scheme to overcome this difficulty.

Yours, etc,
MICHAEL A. HOOKER,
10 Myddelton Gardens,
Winchmore Hill, N21,
December 3.

Fees for overseas students

From the Director of The Polytechnic of North London

Sir, The position concerning fees for overseas students seems to me to be less straightforward than it may appear to some of your distinguished correspondents, and certain distinctions need to be made.

First, I am prepared to join in objecting wholeheartedly to the policy insofar as it affects postgraduate students from overseas. I suspect that it is this substantial component of their overseas student population that, for example, Cambridge, Oxford, LSE, UMIST, Imperial College and other similar university institutions are concerned to defend. The individuals in this group are or should be, on the one hand, of their country, that either wishes to absorb the beneficial atmosphere of our great centres of learning, or to undertake specialized courses of study, or both.

However, for those of us who operate in rather humbler circumstances the overseas population is principally composed of students following first-degree or diploma courses and is of an exceedingly varied provenance and competence. I am not at all sure that this group necessarily merits the degree of support that seems appropriate for the postgraduates.

My second point concerns the effect on "ex-colonial" countries and their students. There has been a great deal of comment on the effect of a serious drop in overseas student numbers on our home universities—and polytechnics, incidentally—but little about the effects on overseas students of taking first-degree or sub-degree courses in a cultural environment nearly always very different from that of their home country. Nor is much said about the ultimate value of such courses—not their products—to the home country. The benefits are by no means always obvious, it seems to me.

My purpose therefore is not so much to express any great sense of outrage, but rather to hope that ministers may be persuaded to sit down with representatives of universities and polytechnics and other colleges, in order to reach a more rational outcome than the Department of Education and Science's policy seems at present likely to achieve.

Yours sincerely,
T. G. MILLER,
Director,
The Polytechnic of North London,
Holloway, N7,
December 6.

From Mr Joseph Bradshaw

Sir, If 34 professors at the London School of Economics (November 30) can't devise some means of averting irreparable damage to many universities, if the government's policy is implemented, what hope is there for the rest of us, unless it be that we shall not have so many professors of economics doing irreparable damage to the nation?

Yours faithfully,
JOSEPH BRADSHAW,
Copper Beeches,
Blackdown,
Lewinsmead Spa,
Warwickshire.

Ulster violence

From Dr T. D. M. Martin

Sir, Patrick Bragan informs us, in his article of December 3, that an American sociologist, Miss Martha Crenshaw, has prepared a report on the terrorism for the State Department which concludes that violence would continue in Northern Ireland even if all the legitimate grievances of the Catholics were met and a new power-sharing executive established. He adds that this pessimistic view is not shared by the department.

It is difficult to see why Miss Crenshaw and the State Department should be at odds over this question since, following the Pope's visit to Ireland, Mr Ruairi O Bradshaw, President of Provisional Sinn Féin, made a statement which included the following: "The minimum requirement for justice is that the British should declare their intention of getting out. The only key to a permanent peace is that the British should leave. If justice means equality for the Catholics with the Protestants under British rule then we are not interested" (The Guardian, October 3).

Could anything be clearer? I am, Sir, your obedient servant.
T. D. M. MARTIN,
Hayfield,
Panchbourne,
Berkshire.

Wheel and woe

From Mr J. T. Frewen

Sir, I would much prefer to suffer the very minor inconvenience caused by my fellow commuter's bicycle on a station platform than breathe the exhaust fumes from the car that he may bring into the city instead.

British Rail should think again; its ban on commuters' bicycles (report, December 7) is ecologically insane.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN FREWEN,
35 Arlington Park Mansions,
Sutton Lane,
Chiswick, W4.

Heavenly music

From Canon Paul Oestreicher

Sir, From other reviews I should have guessed that in Amedeus Peter Shaffer is wrestling with the divine mystery of Mozart. With gratitude for Bernard Levin's insight may I remind your readers that one of this century's greatest theologians, Karl Barth, also wrestled with this problem and in a memorable lecture concluded that although when the angels sing for God they sing Bach, when they sing for pleasure they sing Mozart and God eavesdrops.

Yours sincerely,
PAUL OESTREICHER,
40 Dartmouth Row, SE10.

HOME NEWS

Mr Mason presses for inquiry into risk of defoliant weedkiller

By Ronald Kesteven

Baroness Williams of Crosby, Minister of Agriculture, has joined the fight for an inquiry into the defoliant weedkiller 2,4,5-T.

The defoliant, which is banned in Italy and Holland, is the subject of a batch of questions put down by Mr. Mason, Minister of State for the Home Office, and Dr. Gerald Vaughan, Minister of State for the Home Office.

Mr. Mason said last night: "There is a major cloud of suspicion hanging over 2,4,5-T, which is causing great concern to agricultural and forestry workers and the public. My questions are intended to establish an inquiry to clear up the matter once and for all and discover whether 2,4,5-T is dangerous to humans and animals."

He will ask Mr. Williams which EEC countries have stopped the use of the chemical, and why, and whether he is prepared to hold an inquiry into its use and effect. He will ask Dr. Vaughan whether he has made, or is making, any studies of its effects on humans.

Mr. Mason shares the concern with the National Union of Agricultural Workers, and the British Workers, which has been campaigning for a government inquiry. A Ministry of Agriculture committee said last March that the risk of cancer from the chemical could safely be ignored.

Mr. Mason said: "Forestry

workers are particularly concerned. The chemical was developed as a defoliant in the Vietnam war and it is now being used in Britain."

The union has been told of the use of two forestry Commission workers who believe their mistreatment may be linked to the fact that their husbands had been using 2,4,5-T.

The Ministry also concerned at reports that in the United States several hundred Vietnam war veterans are claiming that mistreatment and deformities in their children are connected with the use of 2,4,5-T in Vietnam. Some cases of the chemical have been suspended by the authorities in the United States and Norway until further tests have been completed.

The British Agro-Chemical Association maintains that the chemical as used in Britain is not dangerous. The level of the chemical in the food chain is said to be less than 1 per cent of the level of the chemical used in Vietnam. Mr. Mason said he would be 450 times the permitted level in products on the British market.

Mr. Mason is also to ask about health and safety on farms, where in the first six months of this year deaths have doubled to 34 over the same period in 1978. Mr. Mason said: "Under the Health and Safety Act, health and safety representatives should be able to go on farms and make their assessments, but farmers have the right to exclude them. I want to be open for examination in view of the high mortality rate."

Civic Trust fears effect of juggernauts' growth

Difficulties caused in Britain's towns by juggernauts will worsen, says the Civic Trust, an influential environmental group.

In 25 years there could be half as many horses again passing through the high streets. All smaller and medium size vehicles will be replaced by the largest lorries.

The trust, in a 70-page report which has been prepared for the Government's Campaign for the Environment, reviews likely conditions by the year 2000. In its four conclusions and 23 recommendations, it is pessimistic about the juggernauts' effect. It rejects the view of the Department of Transport that difficulties caused by lorries will be being steadily overcome. The trust says: "The nuisance has not been curbed but instead is growing worse."

It calls on the Government to reduce or at least restrict the volume of goods carried on the roads, and vigorously to encourage firms to use rail and water transport. The report was drawn up with the help of 300 local environment societies.

Mr Docherty stops inquiry

Mr Tommy Docherty, manager of Queen's Park Rangers football club, in London, has asked police to drop inquiries into a possible link between the club and a man with leg and head injuries.

He had an operation yesterday on a ruptured leg muscle.

After being beaten up by a gang who were apparently Manchester City supporters returning home from Ipswich on the night of the match, a young man had been interviewed but was released, and no charges were being made.

Hopes for a Turner gallery come nearer

By Kenneth Goding

Arts Reporter

The prospect of a permanent Turner gallery, housing all the artist's work in accordance with his will, has come a step nearer with the disclosure that the Tate Gallery has received an anonymous offer of £2m to help it to put the scheme into effect.

A proposed gallery will probably be built on the disused Queen Alexandra Military Hospital site near to the Tate, and that would end pressure for the Turner Bequest to go to Somerset House. The Tate trustees maintain it is unrealistic to expect the collection of 300 oil paintings and nearly 10,000 watercolours and drawings.

A statement yesterday by Lord Bullock, chairman of the Tate trustees, made clear that the offer was made to the Tate and not directly to Mr Norman St John-Stevens, Minister for the Arts. The statement said it was the gallery trustees who first brought the offer to the minister's attention on November 25, when he was seen by the chairman and by Sir Norman Reid, director of the Tate. The trustees added that they were unanimous in their support for the proposal, as it fitted in perfectly with their hopes of being able to use part of the site of the former military hospital to bring together

Workhouses of 1979 'a national disgrace'

By Peter Evans

Home Affairs Correspondent

The Government is happy to see workhouses survive long into the twenty-first century instead of consigning them to history's dustbin. The Campaign for Single Homeless People says in a report today.

Since the welfare state was set up Britain's single homeless poor have been pushed into institutions largely unknown to the public and existing today in all their grimness under a different name, reception centres.

For if you thought that the workhouse had vanished in post-war Britain, or imagined that the 'Dickensian' regime so vividly described by George Orwell in *1984* was now but a closed chapter of our social history, you would be wrong.

The report says that the 23 workhouses are such a national disgrace that they should be closed.

The centres, run by the Department of Health and Social Security, are still used by the Government as dumping grounds for the sick and other single people on low incomes.

They are an unmitigated failure, the report says, because they help hardly any homeless people to obtain permanent accommodation. Sir George Young, Under-Secretary of State at the Department, admitted in June that at least 600 of the 1,610 homeless men and women in reception centres had a legal right to immediate housing from local authorities.

Yet in the whole of last year the department ensured that only 34 of the estimated 8,000 people using the centres were rehoused by local councils.

The centres are in "sub-standard institutional buildings, often in remote, segregated areas, the report says. Some are unfit for human habitation and others are in unsuitable buildings.

The regimes are degrading and the staff are poorly trained. Homeless people are forced to obey all directions given by staff. For instance, all residents must "pay for their keep" by doing task work.

If they refuse they can be fined or even taken to prison, the report says. People can be fined by the department from one centre to another, some hundreds of miles apart.

The new Social Security Bill provides the Government with a golden opportunity to close all 23 centres for good by the end of 1981, and it says that can be achieved in two stages.

First, the Secretary of State for Social Services should use the Bill to repeal his department's duties to provide centres, to provide a new duty to provide accommodation for homeless people in January 1982. In the meantime he should ensure that powers are used to rehouse the people of the centres.

Second, the Secretary of State for the Environment should extend the protection of the Housing (Homeless Persons) Act to give all single homeless people the right of access to a permanent home through their local housing departments.

The report also to the Workhouse Campaign for Single Homeless People, 27 John Adam Street, London, WC2A 7JP.

Operation Countryman investigates three great City of London robberies

12 'super informers' aid search for corrupt policemen

By Stewart Tisdler

Crime Reporter

Informers are usually shunned, by other criminals, but in the past year police have sometimes schooled to cheer at the appearance of informers who have helped the Operation Countryman inquiry into police corruption.

Little over a year old, Countryman has the potential to be the most devastating investigation within the Metropolitan Police and City of London Police forces for years.

The operation went to Dorset because it was not clear how far the allegations went geographically around London. Mr. Burt began recruiting from his own force and others such as Hampshire and Avon and Somerset.

Much speculation has been attached to the substance of the allegations but they are understood to include collusion between officers and criminals, payoffs, officers steering their colleagues away from guilty men and fabricating evidence.

In their investigations Mr. Burt and his men have interviewed 12 "super grasses" cultivated by regional crime squad number five, which operates north of London, and a number of other men who have become informants after arrest.

Evidence indicated corruption in the City force and was passed on to Mr. Peter Marshall, commissioner of that force.

Almost immediately it became clear that Metropolitan officers were also involved in the allegations. There were talks at the Home Office and Mr. Leonard Burt, assistant chief constable of Dorset, was put in charge of the investigation.

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So complex is the web of allegations, names and incidents that the investigators have begun to use a computer to keep track.

The publicity surrounding Countryman has implied that the operation is a grand tangle for police corruption within London, but in fact the officers must stick to their assigned points of reference, which are based on the original allegations and crimes. If they enter new ground they must check with Scotland Yard.

There the final arbiter is Mr. Peter Kavanagh, second in command of the Metropolitan Police. Operation Countryman is not, therefore, an independent inquiry but a group of officers called in to do a specific job.

Since the Metropolitan Police is a proud force whose self-esteem has been fed by its traditional position as *primus inter pares* of Britain's 50-odd forces, Countryman has provoked strong feelings.

London officers point out that Scotland Yard's complaints investigation branch, formerly A10 has a long string of successes to its credit. They are in the business of rooting out

"Gem" policemen without fear or favour.

The Countryman officers, from mainly rural forces, are fishing in unfamiliar waters and have earned themselves the nickname of "The Sweeney", drawn from "The Sweeney", which is rhyming slang for Flying Squad.

At the same time there have been reports that the operation is being wilfully sabotaged. It has been suggested that the criminal world is being fed damaging smear stories, that doubts have been created among would-be informants and threats issued.

That is strongly denied by senior officers at Scotland Yard, who insist that the inquiry is getting all possible help. And it is true that there is a cross-fertilization of information between Countryman and CIB.

On the other hand, Countryman has moved its headquarters out of London to Godalming, Surrey, and officers working in London are said to be using considerable care and security. Telephone conversations are deliberately oblique, meetings held with great care and every effort is made to keep out of

sight of even the humble men on the beat.

Meanwhile, the implications of the publicity surrounding the investigations in terms of public confidence have now reached political circles. The Home Office is pressing for success and recently a legal adviser moved to Godalming to be constantly on hand.

But there are unlikely to be any quick and easy solutions. Information from a criminal has to be treated with caution, especially if it is the main evidence likely to be put forward in court. Up to 100 officers are now involved in investigations into an unspecified number of policemen who by the nature of the job make catching them difficult.

So far five Metropolitan officers, a detective chief inspector, a detective sergeant and three detective constables, have been suspended and one detective chief inspector, from the City has been charged.

Mr. Burt's men believe they can do a good job. Senior officers in the Metropolitan and City forces sincerely hope they can.

Council acts to evict squatters

By Ian Bradley

Westminster City Council is applying for a court order to evict squatters from 37 flats which have been occupied by squatters for the past two weeks.

The flats, which have been empty since building work was completed 10 months ago, are in a new council estate, Wessex Gardens, in Haringey, north London.

The 120 homeless people who are squatting in the flats are paying for their electricity and gas, but they are happy to pay the £24 a week rent which the council collects from other tenants living on the estate.

Mr. Gerry McLeod, a member of the council who runs the squat, said yesterday that there were 25 more unoccupied flats in the estate. He hoped that more homeless people would come and occupy them.

He said that the squatters, several of whom were on Westminster housing list, were preparing a petition opposing the sale of council flats when there were so many homeless people in the borough.

Mr. David Weeks, chairman of the council's housing committee, said yesterday that the squatters were occupying the flats in Wessex Gardens for political purposes.

He said the flats being occupied were in two blocks, one in Anglemore House and Westbury House, in Anglemore.



Squatters at Wessex Gardens preparing a petition against the sale of council flats.

House some flats had been empty since they were built because of certain building defects which had led to a delay in occupation. Once rectified, however, they would be put into the rental pool.

Westbury House had been earmarked for owner occupation since it was opened in February. Mr. Weeks said that Westminster had an owner occupation level of only 16 per cent, the second lowest in London, and the council wanted to increase it by encouraging more owner occupation.

Mr. Tim Daniel, leader of the Labour group on the council, said that it was becoming increasingly clear that the flats in Westbury House would never be sold because of their ludicrously high prices of £25,000 to £35,000.

Within the past week the council has widened the list of those eligible to buy the flats to those with families or jobs in Westminster.

Mr. Daniel said: "What frightens us is that the only way they will ever be able to sell them is to put them on the open market, and that will be

totally contrary to the interests and needs of the people in this borough who are desperate for housing."

Westminster has 4,000 people on its priority waiting list for rented council accommodation. Mr. Weeks said that occupying the flats in Wessex Gardens was the squatters were denying people at the top of the list the chance to have them.

Meanwhile the squatters issued a statement protesting at newspaper reports that they are squatters and that during the fact, only 23 are not British and fewer than 20 are unemployed.

Mixed reception for docks scheme

By John Young

Planning Reporter

From his nineteenth-floor office window, Sir Kenneth Thompson gestures towards the silent warehouses and weed-infested wharves of Liverpool's South Docks, caught in a shaft of winter sunlight. "That's what I call urban corruption," he says.

It is a peculiar phrase but it is a phrase that has been used by Sir Kenneth, aged 69, the Conservative chairman of Merseyside County Council, in an angry manner.

He is angry with the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board, which he claims has hung on to its land and demanded too high a price for it. He is angry with the city council, which, beset by internal political squabbling, seems to find unity only in opposing the county on almost every issue.

Above all, he is angry with the Government, which now proposes to establish its own development corporation to purchase and bring new life to the abandoned Liverpool and Birkenhead docklands.

Sir Kenneth describes the proposed corporation as a monstrous, unwieldy, overblown concept of local democracy. He foresees all sorts of difficulties over who will be responsible for the public services, and declares

that all the Government need do is to give his council the money and the powers of compulsory purchase, and let it get on with it.

By no means all Merseysiders, however, feel the same way. The ideas of the corporation has been welcomed, with some reservations, by local MPs and city councillors of all three main parties.

John Hamilton, Labour leader of the city council, sees it as a means of injecting Government funds on a scale that no local authority could hope to match. Simply to hand over large sums of taxpayers' money to a local authority to use as it saw fit would be out of the question, he says.

To describe Merseyside as a disaster area, as some people have, would be an overstatement. But it certainly has more than its share of economic and social difficulties.

It also seems curiously vulnerable to the more cruel blows of recession: the list of recent factory closures includes British Leyland, Dunlop, Lucas, the ill-fated Kirby co-operative, KME and most recently, Meccano and Dinky Toys. The planned dispersal of parts of the Civil Service, of which Liverpool would have been a main beneficiary, has been shelved.

When such things happen, the blame is frequently laid on the area's supposedly turbulent industrial relations which, it is said, have frightened away new investment. But in fact the decline began a long time ago.

Until the 1930s Liverpool never had much manufacturing industry. It was a city of banking, insurance, trade and commerce, and of service industries based on what had been Europe's greatest seaport.

Changes in the pattern of sea trade, and new methods of handling cargo which would drastically reduce the dock labour force, were foreseen in the 1930s, and three new large industrial estates were established at Kirby, Speke and Aintree. They have not been successful, but as Mr. Albert Stock, Liverpool council's chief executive, points out, there were unforeseen weaknesses.

One was that excessive reliance was placed on the motor industry, which has contracted more sharply than most. Another was that most of the larger companies that moved in during the past 30 years did so under government direction.

When bad times come they are the first to pack up and leave. Mr. Stock points out. The announcement of the Government's proposals appears to have provided a psychological uplift, a feeling that at long last London is beginning to take a real interest.

'Handicapped' get only 25p for Christmas

By Thomas Torney

Labour MP for Bradford, South, said today that he would put down a Commons question urging Mr. Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Social Services, to increase the Christmas allowance of money for mentally handicapped people in long-stay hospitals.

The allocation was set at five shillings in 1948 and has not been increased since.

Mr. Torney said: "I would not have believed that the National Health Service could be so scrooge-like, skintight and begrudging. Even if they provided £1 each, it would be by no means the equivalent of five shillings in 1948."

The Department of Health and Social Security said it could not deny, or confirm, the figure. No-one could find it in the records. Mr. Anthony Smythe, director of Mind, the National Association for Mental Health, said the amount was "despicable".

The authorities even tried last year to withhold the £10 from mentally handicapped pensioners on the grounds that they would not know how to spend it. But they dropped the idea when there was an avalanche of protest.

Mr. Torney said that the proposed changes violate articles to do with family life and the right to marry and found a family in conjunction with an article prohibiting discrimination.

Mr. Patel also cites the EEC guarantees to women in the Community that they can work and settle in any EEC country. He says they have a right to be joined by their spouses and dependants.

The Asian community is particularly angry about proposed further restrictions on the entry of husbands and fiancés. Mr. Raison told the confederation: "Marriage is being used as a means of primary immigration."

Where immigration is not the reason for the marriage, the husband or fiancé may be able to come, provided the woman is a citizen of the United Kingdom and colonies and was born here.

Many Asian girls had been born here and they would be able to bring in their husbands, subject to the tests of whether the marriage had been contracted for immigration purposes and whether the couple had met.

Inquiry into use of saws to harvest deer antler velvet

By Our Agricultural Correspondent

The harvesting of deer velvet by sawing off the antlers of live animals is to be investigated by the Government's new Farm Animal Welfare Council, Ministers want the inquiry to be complete before the new harvesting season next summer.

Velvet is soft, protective skin which grows naturally on the antlers and then falls off. It is used in the preparation of medicines, including aphrodisiacs, in South-east Asia and fetches more than £50 a pound there. A mature animal can produce more than 3lb a year.

A member of the Government's new Farm Animal Welfare Council is advising the use of deer velvet on farms in New Zealand, and will report early next year.

Animal welfare groups have complained to the Government about the growth of deer farming in Scotland. They fear that farmers whose main interest is in export "velvet" may be tempted to start harvesting velvet as a profitable sideline.

The British Veterinary Association said: "In the present state of knowledge, the harvesting of velvet from live deer should not be permitted." The Universities Federation for Animal Welfare said: "Velvet should be removed only under an anaesthetic with veterinary supervision."

The Farm Animal Welfare Council is to examine the physical and emotional effects on deer of having their antlers sawn off.

New science group planned

By Our Political Correspondent

To fill a gap left by the resignation of Commons select committees, the House of Lords will be asked tomorrow to set up a new Lords Select Committee on Science and Technology.

A report from the Lords Committee on Executive suggests that the committee should be appointed experimentally. It says: "The proposal has

attracted widespread support both within the House and outside. The House has a great deal of expertise on science and technology and the committee would fill the gap created by the Commons' decision to discontinue its committee."

The House is expected to approve the plan. Later tomorrow the House will debate the White Paper on the revised immigration rules.

Book your call to Greenland early this Christmas.

If you'd like to call someone overseas at Christmas, first check if you can dial direct.

Most of our customers can - to 89 countries now. To call Greenland, or any other country that can't be dialled direct, you'll need to book.

That's if you want to make a call between 6pm and

Christmas Eve and 8am on Boxing Day. Bookings can be made between December 10th and the 14th and December 17th and the 21st, from 8.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.

You'll find the relevant information in your dialling instructions. (But 01 numbers please note that for countries listed

under 108 you should dial 159 for your Christmas booking.)

Many countries get fully booked well before the closing date. So make an early start and get your booking made right away.

If you can dial direct, remember lines get very busy on Christmas Day, so do phone earlier if you can.

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WEST EUROPE

Dutch in last-minute Bonn talks on weapons

From Robert Schull
Amsterdam, Dec 9

The Dutch Cabinet will meet tomorrow to decide what attitude to adopt on modernization of Nato's theatre nuclear forces in Europe.

Before the Cabinet makes up its mind in the light of last Thursday's parliamentary vote of "outright rejection of modernization," Mr. Andriess van Agt, the Prime Minister, and Mr. Christoph van der Klauwe, the Foreign Minister, will travel to Bonn for last-minute talks tomorrow afternoon with Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, and Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the Foreign Minister.

A Government spokesman in The Hague announced that the meeting in Bonn had been arranged at the request of Mr. van Agt. The unexpected announcement came only a few hours after the Dutch Prime Minister returned from Washington yesterday after talks with President Carter and Mr. Cyrus Vance, the American Secretary of State.

Mr. van Agt, who has been called "Holland's new flying Dutchman," went to the United States, directly after talks with Mrs. Thatcher in London on Thursday, and earlier that day with his Italian colleague in Rome.

He was therefore back in the Netherlands for the first time after the parliamentary vote on Thursday night, which threatened the existence of his Government.

Speaking to journalists at Amsterdam airport Mr. van Agt described the situation as "very difficult" but added that he still saw "possibilities". He refused to speculate on what the Government's stand would be in Brussels on Wednesday when the Nato Council meets to decide on the modernization of theatre nuclear forces in Europe.

"I simply don't know," he said, adding that Holland's allies would acquiesce in whatever decision the Dutch Government takes.

President Carter and Mr. Vance had shown understanding of the difficult position in which the Dutch Cabinet finds itself after last Thursday's parliamentary vote, Mr. van Agt said.

Political observers here are divided on the Government's chances of survival. One possible course is that the Cabinet itself comes to the conclusion tomorrow that there is no way out and resigns.

The likelihood is that a compromise solution will be found somewhere between these extremes, but that will depend on a large number of factors, including the Dutch vote in Brussels from their Nato allies.



About 23,000 people demonstrated in Brussels yesterday against Nato's plan to deploy new nuclear weapons in West Europe. Several nations were represented.

Four unwilling countries may mean deployment of fewer Nato missiles

By Henry Stanhope
Defence Correspondent

Nato will make its long awaited decision this week on the deployment of new American long range nuclear weapons in Europe. At best, however, this is unlikely to be the unanimous decision that the alliance has been seeking.

The United States, with the backing of its main partners, wants to modernize its theatre nuclear forces (TNF) by stationing 108 Pershing 2 ballistic missiles in West Germany, 96 in Italy, 48 in Holland and 48 in Belgium.

The package would cost about £2,000m, and the missiles, all of which could reach military targets in the Soviet Union, would be ready for deployment in 1982 or 1983.

They are needed, the allies argue, to maintain the Nato strategy of "flexible response" and to counter the new Soviet SS 20 missile and the Backfire Bomber.

The decision, which will be taken at a joint meeting of defence and foreign ministers in Brussels on Wednesday, will be accompanied by a related package of proposals on arms control.

These are said to include the withdrawal of 1,000 other American nuclear warheads from Europe, reductions in theatre nuclear forces on both sides, and a withdrawal of 13,000 American and 30,000

Soviet troops from central Europe. Some could be discussed at the next stage of the strategic arms limitation talks (Salt 2) and others at the Vienna negotiations on troop reductions, which have been lingering on for six years without result.

The Americans, British, West Germans and Italians insist that arms control proposals would be worse than useless without a parallel decision on the new weapons because the Soviet Union could dictate terms from a position of strength.

But not all of their partners agree. The Dutch Parliament voted last week against authorizing deployment of the weapons, being in favour of pressing ahead for the time being, with the arms control package on its own. The coalition government could fall if it does not comply with this and nuclear feeling.

The front position of the Belgian coalition is uncertain after a hostile vote by French-speaking socialists at the weekend. The Dances, only indirectly involved, want to delay a decision for six months while the Norwegians are also unenthusiastic.

Last week the Russians began to implement President Brezhnev's offer, two months ago, to withdraw 1,000 tanks and 20,000 troops from eastern Germany in an attempt to capitalize on the split in Nato ranks and thus forestall this week's vote in Brussels.

But neither they nor the allies will know exactly what will happen until Wednesday night. Nato sources believe that the allies will decide to go ahead with the new weapons, but like all the best Nato stories, this one promises to be a thriller with the denouement timed for the final curtain.

Soviet criticism: The Soviet press today denounced the Nato plans. The future of Europe depends on Wednesday's decision, which could undermine the principle of détente, the papers said. Only the United States could benefit from the deployment of new American missiles in Western Europe.

Washington was trying to achieve military superiority, the Soviet armed forces newspaper, Red Star, said. According to the press, the Soviet Union is preserving the inviolability of the boundaries of New York, the United States is ready to sacrifice 1,000 years of European culture.

It affirmed that disarmament proposals made by President Brezhnev in East Berlin in October, could "open the way to negotiations over medium-range weapons". — Agence France-Press.

OVERSEAS

American envoy doubts whether Palestinian autonomy talks can be completed by May deadline

Tel Aviv, Dec 9.—Mr. Sol Linowitz, America's new envoy in the Middle East, fresh from talks with President Sadat of Egypt, said today that he was not confident the May deadline for completion of the Palestinian autonomy talks could be met.

Mr. Linowitz arrived at Ben-Gurion airport Sunday night and emphasized the long-standing United States commitment to the peace process, and well-being of the Palestinian people. This commitment was never stronger, than it is today, he said.

The United States is determined to act to ensure that Israel and a free, secure and trusted ally.

"I came here as a personal representative of President Carter to make peace in the Middle East a reality," he said.

He added that his conversations with President Sadat were "long and fruitful" and that he looked forward to similar talks with Mr. Menachem Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister.

Before leaving Cairo, Mr. Linowitz said he was optimistic but a little worried about the "autonomy" talks between Israel, Egypt and the Palestinian people. "I am not confident the May date can be met."

His remark contrasted sharply with Mr. Sadat's optimism earlier in the day when he said that negotiations could be successfully completed "in the very near future".

President Sadat and Mr. Linowitz met for more than two hours at a presidential reception house in Cairo. The Egyptian leader said the developments in Iraq should not be allowed adversely to affect Middle East peace efforts. On the contrary, he added, they should enhance the security and the autonomy negotiations.

The negotiations, which began last May, might be helped by a forthcoming summit between President Sadat and Mr. Begin which starts in Aswan next month.

Asked if special importance was being attached to the Sadat-Begin summit, Mr. Linowitz said: "It is the intention of President Sadat to make it a worthwhile meeting, a substantive meeting and a historic one."

Although Mr. Linowitz said he was not confident the May deadline could be met, he quickly added: "But I am confident the spirit exists. I am not ready to say the date is out of reach. Given the determination of both sides, a number of things could happen before the May date."

President Carter had instructed him to tell President Sadat and Mr. Begin that "aside from there is no other foreign policy issue to which he accords higher priority."

Mr. Linowitz, who took over from Mr. Robert Strauss as America's chief delegate to the autonomy negotiations, said he found the Egyptians "a little impatient" about the slow pace of the talks "but not discouraging."

Referring to 1977 when he was appointed co-negotiator for the Panama Canal treaties, Mr. Linowitz said nobody was optimistic at the time "but we managed to find a way through."

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Arabs try to block settlement project

From Moshe Brillant
Tel Aviv, Dec 9

Arab villagers living a mile from the new site for the controversial Gush Etzion settlement of Elon Moreh barricaded the only road to the site with burning tyres this morning in a futile attempt to block the project.

Israeli Border Police put out the fires and cleared the road for two bulldozers to begin earth moving at the site this afternoon.

The green light for work to start on the settlement was given by the Cabinet this afternoon, at its weekly meeting in Jerusalem. The 110 settlers are to move there from another site in the Nabulus area, which the High Court ordered to be evacuated because the Government had requisitioned private land unlawfully.

The new site is on state domain and the ministers had to choose today between two sites on Jebel Kibir, south-east of Nabulus.

One advocated by Mr. Ariel Sharon, the Minister of Agriculture, was said to have been a better site but was off the road, the other proposed by Mrs. Pella Albeck, of the Ministry of Justice, who studied the legal position of the land that abuts the road.

The Cabinet decided that "the settlement will be established without expropriating private land and without damaging private property."

A Cabinet spokesman said that this amounted to a rejection of Mr. Sharon's proposal which would have required moving the fence of privately owned land to extend the road.

The type of burning occurred this morning in Deir el Habab, on a lower slope of Jebel Kibir. The approach road, which passes between the village houses, may not be wide enough for heavy lorries carrying the settlers' caravans to pass. An Israeli source said that some stone fences may have to be moved to widen the road.

The deadline set by the Government for the transfer of Elon Moreh from its present site is December 30. Mr. Mattityahu Drobles, the head of the settlement department of the World Zionist Organization said the Government may be asked to extend it.

Jail for propagandist
Belgrade, Dec 9.—A 33-year old Yugoslav was sentenced to nine and a half years' imprisonment by a court at Tuzla yesterday for distributing propaganda and harming the reputation of Yugoslavia, a press report said.

Unarmed combat training for Iranians who have volunteered to fight alongside Palestinian guerrillas in Lebanon.

Chief Ayatollah said the second and third groups will leave on Tuesday and Wednesday. He was not bothered by the fact that Lebanon did not want the volunteers.

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Senor Fraga soft-pedals on Gibraltar

From Harry Debellius
Madrid, Dec 9

A leading Spanish right-wing politician proposed home rule for Gibraltar within the Spanish state without once mentioning the word "sovereignty" in a speech this weekend.

Senor Manuel Fraga Iribarne, leader of the Popular Alliance party and former Spanish Ambassador in London, said yesterday in La Linea, which borders the British Crown Colony.

"The recovery of Gibraltar is a matter of interest to all Spaniards. This is not to say that the legitimate interests of the population of Gibraltar should be forgotten, much less that they should be disparaged."

Senor Fraga, a member of the Spanish Parliament and Interior Minister in the first Franco Government, added: "It is in the true interest of the Gibraltarians for them to ask Great Britain to negotiate with Spain."

He made it clear that he is not in favour of unilateral relaxation of Spanish measures restricting access to the Crown Colony.

A non-partisan seminar on Gibraltar in Segovia, sponsored by the Spanish Institute for International Questions, called on Madrid and London to make "the necessary gestures" towards seeking an agreement on Gibraltar.

In Madrid the only two officers formally accused in last year's alleged coup attempt, known as Operation Galaxia, were freed from prison this weekend and allowed to return home to await trial.

Lieutenant-Colonel Antonio Tejero of the Civil Guard, and Captain Ricardo Saez de Irujo, an Army officer assigned to duty with the National Police, are accused of "conspiracy and proposing rebellion" in connection with a plot to seize Senor Suarez, the Prime

On balance Miss Kim is without parallel

Romanian team doctor, Liviu Bors, and the coach, Bela Karoly all

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unreserved ver

dict on Midni

Light Court

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Protein	Total protein (%)	Cytosol fraction (%)
Actin	~10	~10
Myosin	~15	~15
Formin	~25	~25
Arp2/3	~35	~35
Wiskott-Aldrich	~45	~45
Other proteins	~50-100	~50-100

Winter gives unreserved verdict on Midnight Court

1.0 RUDDINGTON HURDLE (1)	
00-112	Sam Prince (D), Mrs.
21	Jagador (D), D. Ke
0-	Cachmaria, A. Dick
00	Gale Street, N. Cas
00-0	Jordan Gayne, J. Bl
0000-4	Ivory, T. K. Bl
	King Vintan, F. Rime
	Last Curcio, Miss A
10	Lucky Call, D. Nich
00-44	Mandac, R. Hood, S

iv I: novices: £725: 2m)

R. Lomas, 4-11-5	A. Carr
4-11-5	Haydn
5-10-10	Carmen
5-10-10	J. King
7-10-10	
5-10-10	A. Webb
5-10-10	Tink
5-10-10	A. Tuck
Mu-Weed, 10-10-10	Siddons
5-10-10	Francis
5-10-10	F. Davi

333	09-000	George Kinsale, 4
334	0100	Glen May, D. Blundell
335	030-0	Strathling, 10-11
337		
338	3-1 Margo, 4-1	Salad, 9-2 Dunne
339	10-1 Excelsior	12-1 Beehiveville, 16-1

230 WOODBROUGH CHASE

404	25-4	Aspen, D. Gendolfo
405	POOF	Aspidoch, B. Richmond
406		Attorney Junction, 2
407	014-0	Sedgebury, 1-1
409	3130-04	Chevalier, 1-1
410		W. Hols

10-0 S. Kesteven
 Arthur. 6-10-0 S. Lisle
 Daughter. 6-1 Balruay, 8-1 Gay Twenties
 others.

Novices: £1,099: 2m)

11-7 P. Barrett
 7-11-7 Mr J. Barnham
 6-11-7 J. Pearce
 6-11-7 C. Thorpe
 5-11-7 H. Davis
 5-11-7 M. Evans
 5-11-7 S. M.

Ton't, Wed & Sat: 7.30. SWAN LAKE
THE ROYAL OPERA
Tomorrow, & Thur: 7.30. COSI
TUTTI. (Conductor: Karl Böhm. Seats
avail for the first night: 7.30. D.
FEDERMAUE. (Amphit seats avail:
all parts.)
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Flute. 7.00: Jollies. Caesar. P.

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32171-0	* Plastic Cup (D), K. Bailey, 5-10-0
00310-0	Gun Powder (D), K. Bailey, 5-10-0
0010-	Rentak (D), W. Whiston, 6-10-0
00000	Contra Viridian (D), J. Friday, 7-10-0

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Teesside Park programme

1245 GUISBOROUGH HURDLE (Div I: novices: £531 2m 52 10yds)			
3	00-1402	Talapat, P. Feintest, 5-17-1	J. O'Neil
4	00-1403	Al Bayhan, R. Harlow, 5-10-1	R. L. Williams
5	00-1404	Al Bayhan, R. Harlow, 5-10-1	R. L. Williams
6	00-1405	Duke of Hopedale, C. Edmunds, 5-10-1	N. J. Williams
7	00-1406	King Hale, W. Page, 5-10-1	N. J. Williams
8	00-1407	King Hale, W. Page, 5-10-1	N. J. Williams
9	00-1408	Parishos, L. S. Kerr, 5-10-1	N. J. Williams
10	00-1409	Parishos, L. S. Kerr, 5-10-1	N. J. Williams
11	00-1410	Super Mare, N. J. Kerr, 5-10-1	N. J. Williams
12	00-1411	Super Mare, N. J. Kerr, 5-10-1	N. J. Williams
13	00-1412	Super Mare, N. J. Kerr, 5-10-1	N. J. Williams
14	00-1413	Super Mare, N. J. Kerr, 5-10-1	N. J. Williams
15	00-1414	Super Mare, N. J. Kerr, 5-10-1	N. J. Williams
16	00-1415	Super Mare, N. J. Kerr, 5-10-1	N. J. Williams
17	00-1416	Super Mare, N. J. Kerr, 5-10-1	N. J. Williams
18	00-1417	Super Mare, N. J. Kerr, 5-10-1	N. J. Williams
19	00-1418	Super Mare, N. J. Kerr, 5-10-1	N. J. Williams
20	00-1419	Super Mare, N. J. Kerr, 5-10-1	N. J. Williams
21	00-1420	Super Mare, N. J. Kerr, 5-10-1	N. J. Williams
22	00-1421	Super Mare, N. J. Kerr, 5-10-1	N. J. Williams
23	00-1422	Super Mare, N. J. Kerr, 5-10-1	N. J. Williams
24	00-1423	Super Mare, N. J. Kerr, 5-10-1	N. J. Williams
25	00-1424	Super Mare, N. J. Kerr, 5-10-1	N. J. Williams
26	00-1425	Super Mare, N. J. Kerr, 5-10-1	N. J. Williams
27	00-1426	Super Mare, N. J. Kerr, 5-10-1	N. J. Williams
28	00-1427	Super Mare, N. J. Kerr, 5-10-1	N. J. Williams
29	00-1428	Super Mare, N. J. Kerr, 5-10-1	N. J. Williams
30	00-1429	Super Mare, N. J. Kerr, 5-10-1	N. J. Williams
31	00-1430	Super Mare, N. J. Kerr, 5-10-1	N. J. Williams
32	00-1431	Super Mare, N. J. Kerr, 5-10-1	N. J. Williams
33	00-1432	Super Mare, N. J. Kerr, 5-10-1	N. J. Williams
34	00-1433	Super Mare, N. J. Kerr, 5-10-1	N. J. Williams
35	00-1434	Super Mare, N. J. Kerr, 5-10-1	N. J. Williams
36	00-1435	Super Mare, N. J. Kerr, 5-10-1	N. J. Williams
37	00-1436	Super Mare, N. J. Kerr, 5-10-1	N. J. Williams
38	00-1437	Super Mare, N. J. Kerr, 5-10-1	N. J. Williams
39	00-1438	Super Mare, N. J. Kerr, 5-10-1	N. J. Williams
40	00-1439	Super Mare, N. J. Kerr, 5-10-1	N. J. Williams
41	00-1440	Super Mare, N. J. Kerr, 5-10-1	N. J. Williams
42	00-1441	Super Mare, N. J. Kerr, 5-10-1	N. J. Williams
43	00-1442	Super Mare, N. J. Kerr, 5-10-1	N. J. Williams
44	00-1443	Super Mare, N. J. Kerr, 5-10-1	N. J. Williams
45	00-1444	Super Mare, N. J. Kerr, 5-10-1	N. J. Williams
46	00-1445	Super Mare, N. J. Kerr, 5-10-1	N. J. Williams
47	00-1446	Super Mare, N. J. Kerr, 5-10-1	N. J. Williams
48	00-1447	Super Mare, N. J. Kerr, 5-10-1	N. J. Williams
49	00-1448	Super Mare, N. J. Kerr, 5-10-1	N. J. Williams
50	00-1449	Super Mare, N. J. Kerr, 5-10-1	N. J. Williams
51	00-1450	Super Mare, N. J. Kerr, 5-10-1	N. J. Williams
52	00-1451	Super Mare, N. J. Kerr, 5-10-1	N. J. Williams
53	00-1452	Super Mare, N. J. Kerr, 5-10-1	N. J. Williams
54	00-1453	Super Mare, N. J. Kerr, 5-10-1	N. J. Williams
55	00-1454	Super Mare, N. J. Kerr, 5-10-1	N. J. Williams
56	00-1455	Super Mare, N. J. Kerr, 5-10-1	N. J. Williams
57	00-1456	Super Mare, N. J. Kerr, 5-10-1	N. J. Williams
58	00-1457	Super Mare, N. J. Kerr, 5-10-1	N. J. Williams
59	00-1458	Super Mare, N. J. Kerr, 5-10-1	N. J. Williams
60	00-1459	Super Mare, N. J. Kerr, 5-10-1	N. J. Williams
61	00-1460	Super Mare, N. J. Kerr, 5-10-1	N. J. Williams
62	00-1461	Super Mare, N. J. Kerr, 5-10-1	N. J. Williams
63	00-1462	Super Mare, N. J. Kerr, 5-10-1	N. J. Williams
64	00-1463	Super Mare, N. J. Kerr, 5-10-1	N. J. Williams
65	00-1464	Super Mare, N. J. Kerr, 5-10-1	N. J. Williams
66	00-1465	Super Mare, N. J. Kerr, 5-10-1	N. J. Williams
67	00-1466	Super Mare, N. J. Kerr, 5-10-1	N. J. Williams
68	00-1467	Super Mare, N. J. Kerr, 5-10-1	N. J. Williams
69	00-1468	Super Mare, N. J. Kerr, 5-10-1	N. J. Williams
70	00-1469	Super Mare, N. J. Kerr, 5-10-1	N. J. Williams
71	00-1470	Super Mare, N. J. Kerr, 5-10-1	N. J. Williams
72	00-1471	Super Mare, N. J. Kerr, 5-10-1	N. J. Williams
73	00-1472	Super Mare, N. J. Kerr, 5-10-1	N. J. Williams
74	00-1473	Super Mare, N. J. Kerr, 5-10-1	N. J. Williams
75	00-1474	Super Mare, N	

6 0003-4F KASHOON, W. A. Stephenson, 4-11-7
8 00-3000 SANCIGARE, E. Carter, 4-10-10
9 390-p PAGES, Roy, T. Fairhurst, 7-10-8
10 00-3000 PAGES, Roy, T. Fairhurst, 7-10-8

[illegible]

Linsfield Park

12.45: 1. Beacon Light (4-12) f.
 2. Bold Argument (50-1): 3. S.
 Through (23-11). 15 rah.
 1. Queen's Mount (15-1) f.
 2. Queen's Mount (10-1): 3. S.
 base (50-1). 20 ran.
 1.45: 1. Broadbase (4-1): 2. N.
 Watch (12-1): 3. Northern Dyn.
 (16-1): 15 rah. Northern valley
 fav. NR: Rot. Call.
 1.15: 1. Mac. Vids (8-1):
 (11-2). 11 ran. Royal court 11-4
 2.45: 1. Kas (7-1): 1. Sr. G.
 (7-1). 2. Siege (11-1): 6
 Ventura To (12-1) f. fav.
 (12-1). 2. Fredo (17-4) fav.
 Ragnazzo (8-1): 3. Secretary Gm

Newcastle

12:30-1:1. **Nasherton** (11-8 fav)
 1:10-1:5. **John** (5-11); 3. **Rogart** (50)
 15 Jan NR: **Duc De Beloeux**.
 1:0-1:1. **Sally** (12-11); 2. **Castle** (9-4); 3. **Crown Court** (10-8) 2 fav.
 1:30-1:1. **Norion Cavalier** (13-8) 2 fav.
 2:0-2:1. **Tracy** (12-1); 3. **Park Row** (10-8) 2 fav.
 2:0-2:1. **Banachick** (15-8 fav).
 2:0-2:1. **Lord Bane** (15-8); 3. **Kamanda** (9-8) 2 fav.
 2:30-2:1. **Straw HHH** (8-1); 2. **B. McGray** (5-5 fav); 3. **Brother Ken** (12-1) 7 fav.
 3:0-3:1. **Fortuna Express** (100-20) 2 fav.
 3:0-3:1. **Alack** (11-8 fav); 2. **Northern Sport** (10-1); 3. **Border** (8-8) 2 fav. NR: **Border** (8-8) 2 fav.

Cheltenham results

12.30: 2. Mr. Marshbrough (71)
2. Only Mowbray (7-2 fav); 3. The
foam (10-1). 11 ran. Reddin.
1.0: 1. Matchless Wall (7-10);
H.M. of Stone (7-4 fav); 3. The Clea
(50-1). 17 ran. N.R.: Good.
1.0: 1. Faded Banay (10-1);
The Saker (8-1); 3. Robin-Car
(15-2). 10 ran. Reddin. 11-2
2.10: 1. Cattle race (17-1); 3.
Kest (4-2 fav). 5 ran.
2.45: 1. Lagoon (10-2); C. Sop
Carve (4-2 fav); 3. Lord Ovis
(10-1). 17 ran. N.R.: Good.
3.15: 1. Major Swallow (5-1); 11
Grand Strider (61-1); 3. -A-
Purcell (55-1). 24 ran. Pomer
Dance 4-2 fav.

Autentifi result

yesterday

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Troprise J. Morla

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1. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 1997; 278: 1039-1044.

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**SPECIAL
REPORT**

